

Sinclair Broadcasting is violating their public trust by airing an attack directed towards John Kerry without requiring any payment by the Bush administration and without acknowledging this as an attack ad. Sinclair management has a history of donating over one hundred thousand dollars to the Bush campaign and for making partisan news decisions. Their latest outrage must be stopped! As outlined below, the public interest must be asserted at this crucial time just before one of the most important elections in the last 100 years.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.